



Indiana Department of Education
SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendents and Principals

From: Cathy Danyluk, State Attendance Officer
Bret Phillips, National Child ID Program

Date: November 23, 2009

Subject: Child Identification Kits

The state of Indiana has the opportunity to provide a child identification kit for every child in kindergarten and first grade. Thank you to WalMart for providing the funds for this project. In addition, the American Football Coaches Association, the FBI's National Child ID Program and the FBI National Citizens Academy Alumni Association joined efforts with Governor Mitch Daniels, Indianapolis Colts Head Coach Jim Caldwell, and the Indiana Department of Education to provide more than 162,000 of these child ID kits. The fingerprint/DNA kit can be used by parents as a non-intrusive means of collecting a child's identification information (including fingerprints, DNA, physical characteristics and photograph) which can be retained by the child's parents. In the event of an emergency, the child ID Kit can be given to local authorities to provide vital information to assist in locating a missing child. This National Child Identification Program was developed to help the more than 800,000 children who disappear each year in the United States. Through this initiative, Indiana has the opportunity to become one of the leading states in the protection of children by providing Inkless Child Identification Kits for use by parents.

We Need Your Help

Every school in Indiana with students in kindergarten and first grade has been sent boxes of Child Identification Kits—enough for every child in this grade range. The timing of the delivery is intentional and will allow you to provide every parent a kit for each of their children in kindergarten and grade with an inkless fingerprint kit, a wallet card and a DNA swab/envelope. We are asking you to distribute the kits before the Christmas holidays.

What Is Our Goal?

Our goal is to have **100%** of all children in kindergarten and first grade to have their fingerprints taken no later than January 31, 2010. You should receive kits by the end of November, and you should distribute the kits between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. If this is not possible, you may want to distribute them in early January. Your local police department may want to assist, or you may have other ideas that would enhance the distribution.

How Will We Know?

The most important goal is to have **100%** of all children in kindergarten and first grade to have their fingerprints taken. Up to now, only one state has met this goal and we can't let Wyoming take the limelight by itself. How will we know that 100% of all children have been fingerprinted? You can download an informational letter for parents (see attached). We suggest you send home this letter with each kit; the form could be viewed as a homework assignment for each child. After the parents have fingerprinted their children, they should sign the form and send it back to the child's teacher. Each teacher should keep track of which students have turned in their forms and be able to document that **100%** of his/her students have completed this "assignment. The teacher, in turn, can "grade" the assignment and reward the child.

What Else Do We Need You to Do?

Please notify your custodians of this shipment of boxes expected to arrive next week and stress the need to put them in a safe and dry location until they are distributed. Please work with your kindergarten and first grade teachers to distribute the Child ID Kits.

Contacts

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